Downlink MIMO HetNets: Modeling, Ordering Results and Performance Analysis

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Abstract-We develop a general downlink model for multiantenna heterogeneous cellular networks (HetNets), where base stations (BSs) across tiers may differ in terms of transmit power, target signal-to-interference-ratio (SIR), deployment density, number of transmit antennas and the type of multi-antenna transmission. In particular, we consider and compare space division multiple access (SDMA), single user beamforming (SU-BF), and baseline single antenna transmission. For this general model, the main contributions are (i) ordering results for both coverage probability and per user rate in closed-form for any BS distribution for the three considered techniques, using novel tools from stochastic orders, (ii) upper bounds on the coverage probability assuming a Poisson BS distribution, and (iii) a comparison of the area spectral efficiency (ASE). The analysis concretely demonstrates, for example, that for a given total number of transmit antennas in the network, it is preferable to spread them across many single-antenna BSs vs. fewer multiantenna BSs. Another observation is that SU-BF provides higher coverage and per user data rate than SDMA, but SDMA is in some cases better in terms of ASE.

I. Introduction

Cellular networks are undergoing a significant makeover to handle increasing data demands prompted by the rising popularity of data hungry applications, such as video streaming and real time video calls [2]. Handling these changing usage trends requires much higher data rates than contemporary cellular networks were designed for. Two strategies that stand out to provide such spectral efficiencies are i) deploy low power nodes to reduce frequency reuse distance, and ii) equip BSs with multiple antennas to enable the use of multiple antenna techniques, such as beamforming and SDMA. Multiple antenna techniques are already relatively mature, being part of multiple wireless standards such as IEEE 802.11e WiMAX and 3GPP LTE-A [3], apart from plethora of theoretical research activities in academia [4]. Similarly, the concept of deploying low power nodes, also termed as small cells or HetNets, has been researched both in industry and academia for a fairly long time, see for example [5], [6] and the references therein. The standardization activities for HetNets have also started in 3GPP release 10 [7]. These activities clearly indicate that multi-antenna techniques and HetNets will coexist and complement each other in the future wireless networks and should not be studied in isolation, as has

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been typically done in the literature. In this paper, we address this problem and develop a general tractable model and the corresponding analytical tools for multi-antenna HetNets using techniques from stochastic orders and stochastic geometry.

A. Related Work

A potentially undesirable effect of small cells deployments is the increasing randomness in the BS locations due to lack of site planning. The departure of cellular networks from regular deployments towards nearly random deployments means that the cellular models that were based on the regularity assumption of BS locations, e.g., deterministic grid model, are no longer applicable. A more natural approach to model HetNets is by using random spatial models, where the locations of the BSs are assumed to form a realization of some point process, the simplest being the Poisson Point Process (PPP) [8], [9]. This model has the advantages of being scalable to multiple classes of overlaid BSs and accurate to model location randomness, especially that of the small cells. Additionally, powerful tools from stochastic geometry can be used to derive performance results for general multi-tier networks in closed form, which was not even possible for single-tier networks using conventional models [9]. While sufficient progress has been made in modeling single-antenna HetNets [9]-[12], the efforts to understand multi-antenna HetNets have just begun, e.g., see [13].

The main challenge in modeling multi-antenna HetNets is the number of possible multi-antenna techniques to choose from in each tier along with their tractable characterization. As a result, most prior works on multi-antenna HetNets have focused only on two-tier networks. For this paper, the most relevant one is [14], where SU-BF was shown to achieve better coverage than multiuser linear beamforming on the downlink of femtocell-aided cellular network assuming perfect channel state information (CSI). Random orthogonal beamforming with max-rate scheduling and coordinated beamforming for femtocell underlay networks was analyzed in [15], [16], respectively. The effect of channel uncertainty on linear beamforming in two-tier networks was investigated in [17]. In addition to the contributions in cellular networks, there has been extensive work on analyzing multi-antenna techniques in wireless ad hoc networks, which is also related to our work since several tools and techniques developed therein can be employed and extended to HetNets. Several singleuser MIMO techniques, such as spatial diversity, open loop transmission and spatial multiplexing, have been studied, see for instance [18]–[20]. The performance of multiuser MIMO communication in a Poisson field of interferers, with perfect and quantized CSI at the transmitter was investigated in [21] and [22], respectively.

B. Contributions and Outcomes

Downlink model for multi-antenna HetNets: In Section II, we develop a comprehensive downlink model, which captures the heterogeneity of current deployments in terms of transmit powers, deployment densities and target SIRs across BSs of different tiers. It additionally models specific characteristics of multi-antenna HetNets, such as different number of transmit antennas across tiers, different transmission techniques and hence different number of users served across tiers in each resource block. We also consider the possibility of closed subscriber group or closed access in which a typical user is granted access to only a few BSs, while the rest purely act as interferers.

Ordering results for coverage and rate: For general system models, such as the one considered in this paper, it is not always possible to express key performance metrics such as coverage probability and per user rate in closed form. In the absence of simple analytical expressions, it is difficult to compare different transmission techniques in general HetNet settings. To facilitate this comparison, in Section III we derive ordering results for both the coverage probability and the rate per user in both open and closed access networks, using novel tools from stochastic orders. Interested readers can refer to [23], [24] for application of stochastic orders to conventional wireless networks. While circumventing the need for deriving coverage and rate expressions, it leads to several system design guidelines, such as i) to serve the same number of users as the number of antennas in each resource block, deploying single-antenna BSs provides higher coverage and per user rate than SDMA due to higher proximity gain, and ii) with more antennas than the users in each resource block, SU-BF provides even higher coverage and per user rate due to the additional beamforming gain. The BS locations for this analysis may be drawn from any general stationary point process, not necessarily independent across tiers, which is a significant generalization of earlier HetNet models based on the PPP assumption.

Coverage probability upper bound and ASE comparison: While comparison of different configurations of multi-antenna HetNets in terms of coverage probability and average rate per user is conclusive from the ordering results, it does not directly capture the fact that some transmission techniques serve more users than the others and hence provide higher sum data rate. In order to capture this effect, in Section IV we additionally consider ASE, which gives the number of bits transmitted per unit area per unit time per unit bandwidth. To facilitate the comparison of transmission techniques in terms of ASE, we first derive an upper bound on the coverage probability of a typical user in both open and closed access networks and show that it can be reduced to a closed form expression for the "full" SDMA case (where the number of users served is equal to the number of antennas). For this derivation, we assume that the BS locations for each tier are drawn from independent PPPs. The tightness of the bound is studied and it is shown that the closed form bound derived for full SDMA is tight down to very low target SIRs. Using this expression and the previously known coverage probability expression for single-antenna HetNets, we derive ASE results for various transmission techniques in closed form. Main consequences of this analysis are: i) for the same density of BSs, single-antenna HetNets have lower ASE than SDMA since they serve fewer users. Interestingly, despite serving fewer users, SU-BF outperforms SDMA in moderate and high target SIR regime, and ii) when the BS densities are adjusted such that all the transmission techniques serve the same density of users, the ASEs of SU-BF, baseline single-antenna transmission and SDMA follow the same ordering as that of coverage probability and average rate per user.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

A. System Setup and BS Location Model

We consider K different classes or tiers of BSs, indexed by the set $\mathcal{K} = \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$. The BSs across tiers differ in terms of their transmit power P_k with which they transmit to each user, deployment density λ_k , target SIR β_k , number of antennas M_k and number of users served by each BS in a given resource block $\Psi_k \leq M_k$, $\forall k \in \mathcal{K}$. While in open access networks a typical mobile can connect to any BS, in closed access networks the access is restricted to $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{K}$ tiers. For the ordering part, the locations of BSs of each tier are drawn from a general stationary point process Φ_k . The point processes Φ_k are not necessarily independent. Those familiar with the recent advances in modeling cellular networks with random spatial models will immediately recognize that this is a significant generalization over the known models based on the PPP assumption. This is enabled by the fact that the ordering results are based on the ordering of channel distributions for various setups and do not depend upon the spatial point process governing the locations of the BSs. However, we do require further assumptions for the ASE comparison, which involves the derivation of explicit expressions for coverage probabilities. Therefore, for the ASE analysis we will consider the more familiar independent PPP model, where each tier of BSs is modeled by an independent homogeneous PPP of density λ_k .

Nevertheless, this is a fairly general model that captures the current deployment trends in 4G networks, e.g., it is easy to imagine hundreds of femtocells coexisting in each macrocell, transmitting at orders of magnitude lower power than macrocells, having relatively small number of antennas due to smaller form factor, serving smaller number of users due to smaller coverage footprints and providing restricted access to their own users due to a smaller backhaul capacity or privacy concerns. A two-tier illustration of the proposed system model is shown in Fig. 1, where a high power macro tier with four transmit antennas per BS coexists with a low power pico tier with two antennas per BS. Owing to its bigger coverage footprint, each macro BS serves higher load than its pico counterpart [25]. The coverage region of each BS in this illustration corresponds to the region where it provides

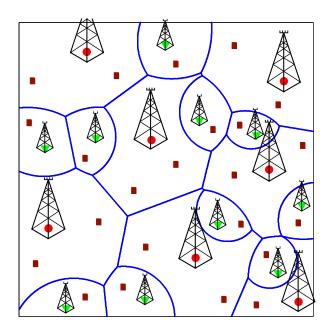


Fig. 1. An illustration of a possible two-tier multi antenna HetNet configuration, with four antenna macro BSs serving two users and two antenna pico BSs serving one user each.

the maximum average received power, thereby leading to a weighted Voronoi tessellation [9].

We model the user locations by an independent PPP Φ_u and focus on the downlink analysis performed at a typical single-antenna user located at the origin. For the interference, we consider full-buffer model where the interfering BSs are assumed to be always transmitting [8], [9]. More sophisticated load models [25] along with non-uniform user distributions [26] can also be considered but are out of the scope of this paper.

B. Channel Model

Before going into the technical details, it is important to understand that the channel power distribution of the link from a multi-antenna BS to a typical single-antenna user depends upon the transmission technique and whether it is a serving BS or an interferer. For example, if it is a serving BS, it may precode its signals for a typical user depending upon the transmission technique, which may lead to a different channel distribution from the case when it simply acts as an interferer. Therefore, to develop a general framework in which the BSs across tiers may differ in terms of the number of transmit antennas and the transmission technique, we assume that the channel power for the direct link from a k^{th} tier BS located at $x_k \in \mathbb{R}^2$ to a typical user located at origin is denoted by h_{kx_k} and for the interfering link from a j^{th} tier BS located at $y \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is denoted by g_{iy} . In this paper, we focus on zero-forcing precoding, under which for Rayleigh fading it can be argued that the channel power distributions of both the direct and the interfering links follow the Gamma distribution [27]. As discussed in detail in Appendix A, it can therefore be shown that for zero forcing $h_{kx} \sim \Gamma(\Delta_k, 1)$ and $g_{jy} \sim \Gamma(\Psi_j, 1)$, where $\Delta_k = M_k - \Psi_k + 1$. For concreteness, we will focus on the following three transmission techniques in this paper:

- SDMA: In this case, a k^{th} tier BS with M_k antennas serves $\Psi_k > 1$ users in each resource block. When $\Psi_k = M_k$, we term it as full SDMA, for which $\Delta_k = 1$.
- SU-BF: In this case, a k^{th} tier BS serves $\Psi_k = 1$ users in each resource block.
- Single Input Single Output (SISO): Baseline singleantenna case [9], where each BS serves one user in each resource block.

For each transmission technique, the received power at the typical single-antenna user located at origin from the BS located at $x_k \in \Phi_k$ is

$$P_r = P_k h_{kx_k} ||x_k||^{-\alpha}, (1)$$

where α is the path loss exponent, because we assume a per user power constraint in this formulation. The received SIR can now be expressed as:

$$SIR(x_k) = \frac{P_k h_{kx_k} ||x_k||^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} P_j g_{jy} ||y||^{-\alpha}}.$$
 (2)

For notational simplicity, we assume that the thermal noise is negligible as compared to the self interference and is hence ignored. This is justified in the current wireless networks, which are typically interference limited [28]. As will be evident from our analysis, thermal noise can be included in the proposed framework with little extra work. For cell association, we assume that the set of the candidate serving BSs is the collection of the BSs that provide the strongest instantaneous received power from each tier to which a typical mobile is allowed to connect. A typical user is said to be in coverage if the received SIR from one of these candidate serving BSs is more than the respective target SIR, as discussed in detail in the next section.

III. ORDERING RESULTS FOR COVERAGE AND RATE

This is the first main technical section of this paper, where we compare the performance of various transmission techniques in terms of coverage probability and average rate per user. We first study coverage probability in detail and then show that the analysis can be easily extended to study rate per user. We begin by formally defining the coverage probability.

Definition 1 (Coverage probability). A typical user in an open access network is said to be in coverage if its downlink SIR from at least one of the BSs is higher than the corresponding target. This can be mathematically expressed as:

$$P_{c} = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{x_{k} \in \Phi_{k}} SIR(x_{k}) > \beta_{k}\right).$$
 (3)

The coverage probability can be equivalently defined as the average area in coverage or the average fraction of users in coverage. For closed access networks, the definition remains the same, except that the union is now over the set of tiers $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{K}$ to which a typical user is allowed to connect.

Remark 1 (Open access vs. closed access coverage). The coverage probability in open access networks is always higher

than in closed access networks. It follows directly by definition of coverage probability along with the fact that for $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{K}$

$$\mathbf{1}\left(\bigcup_{k\in\mathcal{B}} \max_{x_k\in\Phi_k} \mathrm{SIR}(x_k) > \beta_k\right)$$

$$\leq \mathbf{1}\left(\bigcup_{k\in\mathcal{K}} \max_{x_k\in\Phi_k} \mathrm{SIR}(x_k) > \beta_k\right). \tag{4}$$

Owing to the complexity of the system model considered in this paper, it is not always possible to express coverage probability in simple closed form for any general system configuration. As evident from our analysis in the next section, this presents the first main challenge in comparing various transmission techniques. In this section, we take a slightly different view of this problem and focus on "ordering" the performance of different system configurations using novel tools from stochastic ordering. This powerful approach allows insights into the relative performance of different transmission techniques, while circumventing the need to evaluate complicated expressions for the performance metrics such as coverage and rate. Interested readers can refer to [29] for details on stochastic orders. We begin by defining first order stochastic dominance as follows.

Definition 2 (First order stochastic dominance). For any two random variables (rvs) Z_1 and Z_2 , Z_1 (first order) stochastically dominates Z_2 if and only if

$$\mathbb{P}[Z_1 > z] \ge \mathbb{P}[Z_2 > z], \ \forall z. \tag{5}$$

Equivalently, Z_1 is greater than Z_2 in the usual stochastic order and is denoted by $Z_1 \geq_{\text{st}} Z_2$.

Therefore, $Z_1 \geq_{\rm st} Z_2$ if and only if the complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF) of Z_1 dominates that of Z_2 over the whole range. It is intuitively clear and will be made precise later in this section that the proper understanding of the ordering of received SIR for different system configurations plays a central role in studying their coverage and rate ordering. Now note that the received SIR can be alternatively expressed as:

$$SIR(x_k) = \frac{P_k ||x_k||^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} P_j g_{jy} / h_{kx_k} ||y||^{-\alpha}}, \quad (6)$$

where the randomness due to propagation channel is lumped into ratios of Gamma random variables h_{kx_k} and g_{jy} . Therefore, it turns out that it is important first to understand the ordering of the ratios of Gamma random variables, which is studied next.

A. Ordering of the Ratios of Gamma Random Variables

For concreteness, define the ratio of two random variables $X_1 \sim \Gamma(k,1)$ and $X_2 \sim \Gamma(m,1)$ by $Z_{k,m} = X_1/X_2$. It is easy to derive the distribution of $Z_{k,m}$ using basic algebraic manipulations and is given by the following Lemma. The proof is skipped.

Lemma 1 (Distribution of the ratio of Gamma rvs). The cumulative distribution function of $Z_{k,m} = X_1/X_2$, where

 $X_1 \sim \Gamma(k,1)$ and $X_2 \sim \Gamma(m,1)$ is

$$F_{Z_{k,m}}(z) = 1 - \frac{1}{\Gamma(m)} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \frac{\Gamma(m+i)}{\Gamma(1+i)} \frac{z^i}{(z+1)^{m+i}}.$$
 (7)

The form of this distribution function is such that for a given k_1, m_1 and k_2, m_2 , it is not easy to derive conditions on these variables under which the CCDF of one ratio $Z_{k,m}$ dominates that of the other over the whole range of z. Therefore, the above result is of little help in providing direct ordering of two random variables Z_{k_1,m_1} and Z_{k_2,m_2} . We take an indirect route, which uses the following technical result about the equivalence in distribution of the Gamma random variable and the sum of i.i.d. exponentially distributed random variables. Given this technical result, the main result can then be proved using *coupling* arguments. We first state the equivalence result, which can be easily verified using characteristic functions. We then remark on how to use coupling arguments to establish stochastic dominance before stating the main result.

Lemma 2. For i.i.d $\{X_i\}$, with $X_i \sim \exp(1)$, the random variable $X = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i$ is $X \sim \Gamma(k, 1)$.

Remark 2 (Using coupling to establish stochastic dominance). One way to prove $Z_1 \ge_{\rm st} Z_2$ is to find two random variables Z_1^* and Z_2^* with the same distributions as Z_1 and Z_2 , respectively, such that it is always the case that $Z_1^* \ge Z_2^*$. This approach of using the same source of randomness to generate two random variables Z_1^* and Z_2^* satisfying the above relation and thereby establishing the stochastic dominance result is termed as coupling [30].

We now prove the following result on the ordering of the ratios of the Gamma random variables.

Lemma 3 (Ordering of the ratios of Gamma rvs). A random variable Z_{k_1,m_1} defined as the ratio of two Gamma random variables (first order) stochastically dominates Z_{k_2,m_2} if $k_1 \ge k_2$ and $m_1 \le m_2$.

Proof: Using the equivalence in distribution of the Gamma random variable and the sum of exponential random variables shown in Lemma 2, we can generate a random variable Z_{k_1,m_1}^* with the same distribution as Z_{k_1,m_1} as follows

$$Z_{k_1,m_1}^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k_1} Y_{1,i}}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_1} Y_{2,i}},$$
 (8)

where $\{Y_{m,n}\}$ is the set of i.i.d. random variables such that $Y_{m,n} \sim \exp(1)$. This equivalent representation will facilitate the use of standard coupling arguments, under which the goal now is to generate another random variable Z_{k_2,m_2}^* with the same sources of randomness as that of Z_{k_1,m_1}^* , which has the same distribution as Z_{k_2,m_2} , and show that $Z_{k_1,m_1}^* \geq Z_{k_2,m_2}^*$. Under the condition $k_1 \geq k_2$, this can be achieved by expressing Z_{k_1,m_1}^* as follows

$$Z_{k_1,m_1}^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k_2} Y_{1,i} + \sum_{i=k_2+1}^{k_1} Y_{1,i}}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_1} Y_{2,i}}$$
(9)

$$\geq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k_2} Y_{1,i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} Y_{2,i}} \tag{10}$$

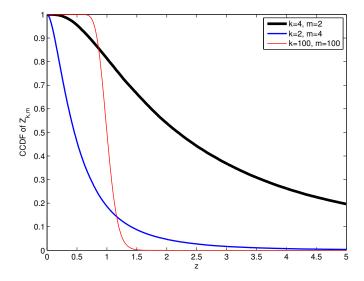


Fig. 2. The CCDFs of the ratios of Gamma random variables for different shape parameters k and m.

$$\stackrel{(a)}{\geq} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{k_2} Y_{1,i}}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_2} Y_{2,i}} \tag{11}$$

$$\stackrel{(b)}{=} Z_{k_2, m_2}^*, \tag{12}$$

where (a) follows from the condition $m_1 \leq m_2$, and (b) from Lemma 2. This completes the proof.

Remark 3. The set of conditions $k_1 \geq k_2$ and $m_1 \leq m_2$ is stronger than the single condition $k_1/m_1 \geq k_2/m_2$, which first comes to mind from the equivalence of Gamma random variables and the sum of exponential random variables stated in Lemma 2. In fact it is easy to argue that the above stochastic dominance is not always true if the only condition on the variables is $k_1/m_1 \geq k_2/m_2$. For instance, consider a case where $k_2 \gg k_1$ and $m_2 \gg m_1$ such that $k_1/m_1 \geq k_2/m_2$. The distribution of Z_{k_2,m_2} is concentrated around its mean and cannot be dominated by the distribution of Z_{k_1,m_1} due to significant difference in their shapes. This is illustrated in Fig. 2, where the ratio of Gamma random variables with shape parameters $k_1 = 4$ and $m_1 = 2$ does not dominate the one with $k_2 = 100$ and $m_2 = 100$ due to concentration, although $k_1/m_1 \geq k_2/m_2$ holds.

To prove the main ordering results of this section, we need to extend the stochastic dominance result of two random variables to multi-variate function of random variables. The result is given in the following Lemma and follows directly from the coupling arguments [30].

Lemma 4. If
$$X_i \geq_{st} Y_i$$
 for all i , then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(\{X_i\})] \ge \mathbb{E}[g(\{Y_i\})],\tag{13}$$

for all multi-variate functions g that are non-decreasing in each component.

B. Coverage Probability Ordering

Using Lemma 4, we now derive the following general result on the coverage probability ordering in K-tier open

access multi-antenna HetNets. As evident from the analysis and remarked later in this section, all the results and insights carry over to closed access networks as well.

Theorem 1 (Coverage ordering in open access networks). The coverage probability of a K-tier open access HetNet with system parameters $\{\Delta_k\}$ and $\{\Psi_k\}$ is higher than or equal to the one with system parameters $\{\Delta_k'\}$ and $\{\Psi_k'\}$ if $\Delta_k \geq \Delta_k'$ and $\Psi_k \leq \Psi_k'$ for $k \in \mathcal{K}$.

Proof: By definition, the coverage probability for open access networks can be expressed as

$$P_{c} = \mathbb{E}\mathbf{1} \left(\bigcup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{x_{k} \in \Phi_{k}} \frac{P_{k} h_{kx_{k}} \|x_{k}\|^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_{j} \setminus x_{k}} P_{j} g_{jy} \|y\|^{-\alpha}} > \beta_{k} \right)$$

$$= \mathbb{E}\mathbf{1} \left(\bigcup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{x_{k} \in \Phi_{k}} \frac{P_{k} \|x_{k}\|^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_{j} \setminus x_{k}} P_{j} Z_{jk} \|y\|^{-\alpha}} > \beta_{k} \right),$$

$$(14)$$

where with slight abuse of notation (dropping the BS location from the subscript), $Z_{jk} = g_{jy}/h_{kx_k}$ is defined as the ratio of two Gamma random variables corresponding to the K-tier HetNet with system parameters $\{\Delta_k\}$ and $\{\Psi_k\}$. Denote the corresponding ratio for the other system setup by Z'_{jk} . By Lemma 3, $Z'_{jk} \geq_{\rm st} Z_{jk}$ if $\Psi'_j \geq \Psi_k$ and $\Delta'_j \leq \Delta_k$. Now note that the indicator function inside the expectation in (15) is element wise decreasing function of Z_{jk} . Therefore, by Lemma 4 the proof follows.

Using this result, we can make some general comments about the coverage probability in certain realistic deployments. We begin by studying the effect of the number of users served in each tier on coverage probability.

Corollary 1 (Effect of number of users). For two different K-tier open access HetNets, with the same number of antennas in each corresponding tier, the one that serves less users in each tier than the other provides higher coverage due to higher beamforming gain.

The proof of the above corollary directly follows from the fact that under the same number of antennas for two setups, the one that serves less users in each tier has $\Delta_k \geq \Delta'_k$ and $\Psi_k \leq \Psi'_k$ for each tier, leading to higher coverage. An important extension of the above corollary is the comparison of the SDMA with SU-BF systems when the number of transmit antennas in each corresponding tier are the same. The result is stated as the following corollary.

Corollary 2 (SDMA vs. SU-BF). For two K-tier HetNets, with the same number of antennas in each corresponding tier, one performing SU-BF in each tier and the other performing SDMA, the coverage probability in the SU-BF case will always be higher.

Another consequence of this general ordering result is the comparison of SISO with SU-BF and SDMA, with the SDMA case specialized to full SDMA. Recall that in case of full

SDMA, $\Delta_k = 1$ and $\Psi_k = M_k$ for all the tiers. The result is given in the following corollary.

Corollary 3 (SU-BF vs. SISO vs. full SDMA). For three K-tier HetNet setups, one performing SU-BF in each tier, another doing single-antenna transmission in each tier and the last one doing full SDMA in each tier, the coverage probability in case of SU-BF is higher than that of SISO, which in turn outperforms full SDMA. The number of antennas in the corresponding tiers of SU-BF and full SDMA HetNets need not be the same.

The proof follows from the fact that the shape parameters in case of SU-BF are $\Delta_k=M_k$ and $\Psi_k=1$, where $M_k>1$ is the number of antennas; in case of SISO are $\Delta_k'=\Psi_k'=1$; and in case of full SDMA are $\Delta_k''=1$ and $\Psi_k''=M_k$, where $M_k>1$ is the number of transmit antennas.

For closed access networks, it can be shown that the coverage ordering result derived in Theorem 1 holds under a slightly weaker condition because a typical mobile is not allowed to connect to all the tiers. The result is given as the following Corollary of Theorem 1 and the proof if skipped. Due to the similarity of this result with the open access case, the insights gained for the open access networks above carry over to the closed access networks as well.

Corollary 4 (Coverage ordering in closed access). For two HetNets, with $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{K}$ open access tiers, the one with system parameters $\{\Delta_k\}$ and $\{\Psi_k\}$ has a higher or equal coverage than the one with system parameters $\{\Delta'_k\}$ and $\{\Psi'_k\}$ if $\Delta_k \geq \Delta'_k$ for $k \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\Psi_k \leq \Psi'_k$ for $k \in \mathcal{K}$.

C. Ordering Result for Rate per User

Another metric of interest for the performance evaluation of HetNets is the rate achievable per user. In addition to the link quality (characterized in terms of SIR), it also depends upon the effective resources allocated to each user. For tractability, we make following two assumptions on resource allocation: i) each k^{th} tier BS serves same number of users, and ii) each BS allocates equal time-frequency resources to all its users. For SDMA, it should be noted that several users will be scheduled on the same time-frequency resource block. Interested readers can refer to [31] for more details on the motivation and validation of these assumptions. Under these assumptions, we denote the effective time-frequency resources, e.g., bandwidth, allocated to a user served by a k^{th} tier BS by \mathcal{O}_k . The two assumptions on resource allocation ensure that \mathcal{O}_k is the same for all the users served by any k^{th} tier BS. Therefore, the downlink rate of a typical user served by a k^{th} tier BS located at $x_k \in \Phi_k$ can be expressed as:

$$R(x_k) = \mathcal{O}_k \log_2(1 + SIR(x_k)). \tag{16}$$

Due to the difficulties in modeling exact load on each BS [9], which often requires characterization of the service areas for different types of BSs, it is challenging to characterize \mathcal{O}_k and hence derive exact expressions for per user rate distribution [31]. However, we now show that to compare different multi-antenna transmission techniques, this characterization is not required and the general ordering result derived above for

the coverage probability can be easily extended for the rate per user as well. Before going into the technical details, it is important to note that the loading across tiers may differ significantly due to the orders of magnitude differences in their coverage footprints. Therefore, the effective resources \mathcal{O}_k available in small cells for each user might be significantly higher than the macrocells. In such a case, it might be beneficial for a user to connect to a small cell even though it may not provide the best SIR over the network. We will capture this characteristic of HetNets in our definition of rate distribution below. Due to the interpretation of a minimum rate required by each application, e.g., video, we will study rate distribution in terms of "rate coverage", which is defined below. It is just the CCDF of rate when the target rates are the same for all the tiers.

Definition 3 (Rate Coverage). A typical user in an open access network is said to be in rate coverage if its effective downlink rate from at least one of the BSs in the network is higher than the corresponding target. We denote the target rate for a k^{th} tier BS as T_k . Rate coverage can now be mathematically expressed as:

$$R_{c} = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{x \in \Phi_{k}} \mathcal{O}_{k} \log_{2}(1 + SIR(x_{k})) > T_{k}\right). \tag{17}$$

For closed access, the expression remains the same except that the union is now over the set $\mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{K}$.

It is easy to show that the rate coverage for open access networks is always higher than the closed access networks. This follows from the same arguments that were used in case of coverage probability earlier in this section. We now state the main ordering result for rate coverage in the following Theorem.

Theorem 2 (Ordering result for rate coverage). For two K-tier HetNets with the same resource allocation per user \mathcal{O}_k for each corresponding tier, the one with system parameters $\{\Delta_k\}$ and $\{\Psi_k\}$ has equal or higher rate coverage than the one with system parameters $\{\Delta_k'\}$ and $\{\Psi_k'\}$ if $\Psi_k \leq \Psi_k'$ for all $k \in \mathcal{K}$, and $\Delta_k \geq \Delta_k'$ for all $k \in \mathcal{K}$ in open access and all $k \in \mathcal{B}$ in closed access.

Proof: The rate coverage can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{R_c} = \mathbb{E}\mathbf{1}\left(\bigcup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \max_{x \in \Phi_k} \mathcal{O}_k \log_2(1 + \mathtt{SIR}(x_k)) > T_k\right), \quad (18)$$

where $SIR(x_k)$ can be expressed as:

$$SIR(x_k) = \frac{P_k h_{kx_k} ||x_k||^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} P_j g_{jy} ||y||^{-\alpha}},$$
 (19)

$$= \frac{P_k \|x_k\|^{-\alpha}}{\sum\limits_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum\limits_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} P_j Z_{jk} \|y\|^{-\alpha}},$$
 (20)

where as in the proof of Theorem 1, we define $Z_{jk} = g_{jy}/h_{kx_k}$ as the ratio of the two Gamma random variables. Now note that the indicator function inside the expectation of (18) is an element wise decreasing function of Z_{jk} , from

which the result follows on the same lines as the proof of Theorem 1.

Remark 4 (Same ordering for coverage and rate per user). From Theorems 1 and 2, we note that the ordering conditions for rate per user are the same as that of coverage probability. Therefore, all the conclusions, including the ordering of SDMA, SU-BF and SISO transmission techniques, derived for coverage probability carry over to the rate rate per user case as well.

Although it is clear from the above discussion that both SU-BF and SISO outperform SDMA both in terms of coverage probability and average rate per user, it is important to note that we have not yet accounted for the fact that SDMA serves more users than both SISO and SU-BF, and may result in a higher sum-data rate. To address this, we compare the three transmission techniques in terms of ASE in the next section.

IV. COVERAGE PROBABILITY AND ASE PERFORMANCE

This is the second main technical section of the paper where we derive an upper bound on the coverage probability of a typical user in a K-tier HetNet, where the transmission techniques adopted by each tier are characterized in terms of the shape parameters Δ_k and Ψ_k of the Gamma rvs. Recall that the coverage probability is formally defined in Definition 1. For this analysis, we assume that BS locations of each tier are drawn from an independent PPP Φ_k with density λ_k . Although this model is not as general as the one considered in the previous section, it is likely accurate in modeling the opportunistic deployment of small cells and has been validated for planned tiers, such as macrocells, by empirical observations [32] and theoretical arguments under sufficient channel randomness [33]. The downlink analysis is performed at a typical used located at the origin, which is made possible by the Slivnyak's theorem [34]. Recall that the original setup requires that all the BSs of a particular tier are either in closed or open access. It is important to note that under PPP assumption, the proposed model is applicable even if a given fraction of BSs of a particular tier independently operate in open or closed access. In such a case, we can divide the original tier into two tiers with appropriate densities, which is enabled by the fact that independently thinning a PPP leads to two independent PPPs. For example, if fraction f of k^{th} tier BSs operate in open access and the remaining (1-f) fraction independently in closed access, the k^{th} tier can be divided into two tiers modeled as independent PPPs $\Phi_{k^{(1)}}$ (open access tier) and $\Phi_{k^{(2)}}$ (closed access tier) with densities $\lambda_{k^{(1)}} = f\lambda_k$ and $\lambda_{k^{(2)}} = (1 - f)\lambda_k$, respectively.

A. Upper Bound on Coverage Probability

Before deriving the upper bound, we first derive an expression for the Laplace transform of interference. The result is given in Lemma 5 and the proof is given in the Appendix B.

Lemma 5. The Laplace transform of interference $\mathcal{L}_I(s) =$

$$\mathbb{E}\left[e^{-sI}\right]$$
, where $I=\sum_{k\in\mathcal{K}}\sum_{y\in\Phi_{j}}P_{j}g_{jy}\|y\|^{-lpha}$ is

$$\mathcal{L}_{I}(s) = \exp\left(-s^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_{j} P_{j}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} C(\alpha, \Psi_{j})\right), \qquad (21)$$

where

$$C(\alpha, \Psi_j) = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha} \sum_{m=1}^{\Psi_j} {\Psi_j \choose m} B\left(\Psi_j - m + \frac{2}{\alpha}, m - \frac{2}{\alpha}\right),$$
(22)

and $B(x,y) = \int_0^1 t^{x-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt$ is Euler's Beta function.

Using this result, we now derive an upper bound on the coverage probability and the result is given in Theorem 3.

Theorem 3. The coverage probability of a typical user in a K-tier open access HetNet is upper bounded by

$$P_{c} \le \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_{k} \mathcal{A}_{k},\tag{23}$$

where $s_{x_k} = \beta_k ||x_k||^{\alpha} P_k^{-1}$ and

$$\mathcal{A}_k = \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_k - 1} \frac{1}{i!} \int_{x_k \in \mathbb{R}^2} (-s_{x_k})^i \frac{\delta^i}{\delta(s_{x_k})^i} \mathcal{L}_{I_{x_k}}(s_{x_k}) \mathrm{d}x_k. \tag{24}$$

The upper bound for closed access networks is the same except that the summation in (23) is over the set \mathcal{B} instead of \mathcal{K} .

Proof: We prove the result for open access networks and will highlight exactly where the proof will differ for closed access networks. Starting with the definition of the coverage probability:

$$P_{c} = \mathbb{E}\left[1\left(\bigcup_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \bigcup_{x_{k} \in \Phi_{k}} SIR(x_{k}) > \beta_{k}\right)\right]$$
 (25)

$$\stackrel{(a)}{\leq} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{x_k \in \Phi_k} 1\left(\text{SIR}(x_k) > \beta_k \right) \right] \tag{26}$$

$$= \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{x_k \in \Phi_k} 1 \left(P_k h_{kx_k} \|x_k\|^{-\alpha} > \beta_k I_{x_k} \right) \right], \quad (27)$$

where (a) follows from the union bound and I_{x_k} is the interference received by the typical user when it is connected to the k^{th} tier BS located at x_k , i.e.,

$$I_{x_k} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} P_j g_{jy} ||y||^{-\alpha}.$$
 (28)

Note that for closed access, the summation in (26) and (27) will be over \mathcal{B} instead of \mathcal{K} . This is the only difference in the proofs of open and closed access cases. Continuing with the proof of open access case, since the channel power of the direct link is independent of everything else, we can take the expectation w.r.t. h_{kx_k} inside (27) to write the coverage probability as:

$$P_{c} \leq \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{x_{k} \in \Phi_{k}} \mathbb{P} \left(h_{kx_{k}} > \beta_{k} I_{x_{k}} \| x_{k} \|^{\alpha} P_{k}^{-1} \right) \right]. \quad (29)$$

Now we first evaluate the probability $\mathbb{P}(h_{kx} > z)$ as follows:

$$\mathbb{P}(h_{kx} > z) \stackrel{(a)}{=} \frac{\Gamma(\Delta_k, z)}{\Gamma(\Delta_k)} \stackrel{(b)}{=} e^{-z} \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_k - 1} \frac{z^i}{i!}, \quad (30)$$

where (a) follows from $h_{kx} \sim \Gamma(\Delta_k, 1)$, and $\Gamma(\Delta_k, z)$ in the numerator is the upper incomplete Gamma function given by $\Gamma(\Delta_k, z) = \int_z^\infty u^{\Delta_k - 1} e^{-u} \mathrm{d}u$, (b) follows by specializing the expression of incomplete Gamma function for the case when Δ_k is an integer. Now denote $\beta_k \|x_k\|^\alpha P_k^{-1}$ by s_{x_k} and substitute (30) in (29) to get:

$$P_{c} \leq \sum_{k \in K} \mathbb{E} \sum_{x_{k} \in \Phi_{k}} e^{-s_{x_{k}} I_{x_{k}}} \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_{k}-1} \frac{(s_{x_{k}} I_{x_{k}})^{i}}{i!}$$
(31)

$$\stackrel{(a)}{=} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_k \int_{x_k \in \mathbb{R}^2} \mathbb{E}_{I_{x_k}} e^{-s_{x_k} I_{x_k}} \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_k - 1} \frac{(s_{x_k} I_{x_k})^i}{i!} dx_k \quad (32)$$

$$= \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_k \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_k - 1} \frac{1}{i!} \int_{x_k \in \mathbb{R}^2} \mathbb{E}_{I_{x_k}} e^{-s_{x_k} I_{x_k}} (s_{x_k} I_{x_k})^i dx_k, (33)$$

where (a) follows from Campbell-Mecke Theorem [34]. Now note that if Δ_k were 1, the expectation term is just $\mathcal{L}_{I_{x_k}}(s_{x_k})$, i.e., the Laplace transform of interference evaluated at s_{x_k} . For $\Delta_k > 1$, we evaluate the expectation in terms of the derivative of the Laplace transform as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}_{I_{x_k}} \left[e^{-s_{x_k} I_{x_k}} (s_{x_k} I_{x_k})^i \right] \stackrel{(a)}{=} s_{x_k}^i \mathcal{L}\{t^i f_{I_{x_k}}(t)\}(s_{x_k}) \tag{34}$$

$$\stackrel{(b)}{=} (-s_{x_k})^i \frac{\delta^i}{\delta(s_{x_k})^i} \mathcal{L}_{I_{x_k}}(s_{x_k}), \tag{35}$$

where (a) follows from the definition of the Laplace transform and (b) follows from the identity $t^n f(t) \longleftrightarrow (-1)^n \frac{\delta^n}{\delta(s)^n} \mathcal{L}\{f(t)\}(s)$. Substituting this in (35), we can express the upper bound on coverage probability in terms of Laplace transform of interference as follows:

$$P_{c} \leq \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_{k} \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_{k}-1} \frac{1}{i!} \int_{x_{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{2}} (-s_{x_{k}})^{i} \frac{\delta^{i}}{\delta(s_{x_{k}})^{i}} \mathcal{L}_{I_{x_{k}}}(s_{x_{k}}) dx_{k},$$
(36)

which completes the proof.

We note that the above upper bound involves a derivative of Laplace transform, which makes its numerical evaluation difficult. However, it is possible to reduce the upper bound to a simple closed form for full SDMA and easy to evaluate numerical expressions in the other cases. The simplified result is given in the following Corollary.

Corollary 5. For $\Delta_k = 1$, A_k can be reduced to

$$\mathcal{A}_{k} = \frac{\pi P_{k}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \beta_{k}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_{j} P_{j}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} C(\alpha, M_{j})},$$
(37)

and for $\Delta_k > 1$ to

$$\mathcal{A}_{k} = \sum_{i=0}^{\Delta_{k}-1} \frac{1}{i!} \sum_{i} \frac{i!}{j_{1}! j_{2}! \dots j_{i}!} \int_{x_{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{2}} (-s_{x_{k}})^{i} e^{-Cs_{x_{k}}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}}$$

$$\prod_{\ell=1}^{i} \frac{1}{(\ell!)^{j\ell}} \left(-\mathcal{C}s_{x_k}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}-\ell} \prod_{n=0}^{\ell-1} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha} - n \right) \right)^{j\ell} \mathrm{d}x_k. \tag{38}$$

Proof: For $\Delta_k = 1$,

$$A_{k} = \int_{x_{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{2}} \mathcal{L}_{I_{x_{k}}} \left(\beta_{k} \|x_{k}\|^{\alpha} P_{k}^{-1} \right) dx_{k}$$
 (39)

$$\stackrel{(a)}{=} \int_{x_k \in \mathbb{R}^2} \exp\left(-\beta_k^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \|x_k\|^2 P_k^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}} \mathcal{C}\right) dx_k, \tag{40}$$

where (a) follows from the Laplace transform expression derived in Lemma 5. Recall that $\mathcal{C} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_j P_j^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} C(\alpha, \Psi_j)$. The closed form expression now follows directly by converting the integral from Cartesian to polar coordinates.

For $\Delta_k > 1$, using the Laplace transform expression and calculating its derivative using Faà di Bruno's formula for the composite function $(f \circ g)(s_{x_k})$, with $f(s_{x_k}) = \exp(s_{x_k})$, and $g(s_{x_k}) = -\mathcal{C}s_{x_k}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}$, the result follows.

We note that the upper bound is in closed form if $\Delta_k = 1$ for all tiers. The result is given in the following corollary. Even for $\Delta_k > 1$, the upper bound can be numerically computed fairly easily, especially for small values of Δ_k .

Corollary 6. The coverage probability in a K-tier open access HetNet with each k^{th} tier BS performing full SDMA to serve M_k users, i.e., $\Delta_k = 1 \ \forall \ k \in \mathcal{K}$, is given by

$$P_{c} \leq \pi \frac{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_{k} P_{k}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \beta_{k}^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}}}{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \lambda_{j} P_{i}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} C(\alpha, M_{j})}.$$

$$(41)$$

For the closed access case, the summation in the numerator is over $\mathcal B$ instead of $\mathcal K$.

We now comment on the tightness of the coverage probability upper bound in various regimes and for various transmission techniques.

B. Tightness of the Upper Bound

For conciseness, we will focus on the open access networks, with the understanding that all the arguments remain the same for closed access case. Since the bound is derived by using the union bound in (26), the tightness depends upon the number of candidate BSs that provide SIR greater than the target SIR. Denote this random variable by $X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\})$, which can be expressed as

$$X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\}) = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{x_k \in \Phi_k} 1\left(\text{SIR}(x_k) > \beta_k\right). \tag{42}$$

The bound holds with equality if there is strictly one candidate serving BS for a typical user, i.e., $\mathbb{P}(X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\}) > 1) = 0$. This is the case in single-antenna HetNets for $\beta_k > 1$, $\forall k$, as shown in [9]. For any other general system configuration, the tightness of the bound depends upon whether the probability $\mathbb{P}(X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\}) > 1)$ is close to zero or not. In general, it is hard to evaluate simple expressions for this probability. However, it is possible to make a few simple observations about the expected tightness of the bound. For instance, the bound gets tight with the increasing values of target SIRs because $X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\})$ is an element-wise

decreasing function of β_k . For further insights, we derive the following ordering result for $X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\})$. The proof follows using Lemma 3 on the same lines as that of Theorem 1.

Theorem 4 (Ordering result for X). If $\Delta_k \geq \Delta_k'$ and $\Psi_k \leq \Psi_k' \ \forall k$, then $X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\})$ (first order) stochastically dominates $X(\{\Delta_k'\}, \{\Psi_k'\})$, i.e. $\mathbb{P}(X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\}) > n) \geq \mathbb{P}(X(\{\Delta_k'\}, \{\Psi_k'\}) > n), \ \forall \ n$.

Proof: Using the alternate expression of SIR given by (6), express $X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\})$ in terms of the channel power gains as

$$\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{x_k \in \Phi_k} 1 \left(\frac{P_k ||x_k||^{-\alpha}}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} P_j Z_{jk} ||y||^{-\alpha}} > \beta_k \right), \tag{43}$$

where $Z_{jk} = g_{jy}/h_{kx_k}$ is the ratio of the two Gamma random variables. For another system with $Z'_{jk} = g'_{jy}/h'_{kx_k}$, $Z_{jk} \leq_{\rm st} Z'_{jk}$ if $\Delta_k \geq \Delta'_k$ and $\Psi_j \leq \Psi'_j$, which follows from Lemma 3. The result now follows on the same lines as the proof of Theorem 1 using Lemma 4 along with the fact that $X(\{\Delta_k\}, \{\Psi_k\})$ is an element-wise non-increasing function of Z_{jk} .

Remark 5 (Tight Bound in case of SDMA). One of the useful consequences of Theorem 4 is the prediction of the tightness of the upper bound for SDMA. One interpretation of the above result is that the bound gets tighter when all the BSs serve more users, i.e., Δ_k decreases and Ψ_k increases for all the tiers. A limiting case is that of full SDMA, where the number of users served by each BS is equal to the number of its transmit antennas. Beyond this point, the bound gets tighter with the addition of more transmit antennas keeping $\Delta_k = 1$. We revisit these observations in the numerical results section and show that the bound is in fact surprisingly tight even for two transmit antennas down to very low target SIRs.

In the rest of this section, we will mainly focus on the full SDMA case. Recall that in this case $\Delta_k = 1$ and $\Psi_j = M_j$ and the coverage probability upper bound is given by Corollary 6. As argued in Remark 5 and validated in the numerical results section, the closed form upper bound is tight and can be used as an approximation for the coverage probability. For simplicity we will use equality instead of an approximation.

Remark 6 (Similarity with P_c in SISO case). The coverage probability expression derived for full SDMA case in Corollary 6 has a striking similarity with the coverage probability in the single-antenna case derived in [9]. The only difference is that the constant $C(\alpha, M_j)$ in that case is simply $C(\alpha) = \frac{2\pi^2 \csc\left(\frac{2\pi}{\alpha}\right)}{\alpha}$.

To facilitate direct comparison of the full SDMA and the SISO cases, we need to understand the relationship between $C(\alpha)$ and $C(\alpha, M)$. Let us take a closer look at the expression of $C(\alpha, M)$ given by (22). First note that $C(\alpha, M)$ is an increasing function of M. Now let us evaluate $C(\alpha, 1)$:

$$C(\alpha, 1) = \frac{2\pi}{\alpha} B\left(\frac{2}{\alpha}, 1 - \frac{2}{\alpha}\right) \tag{44}$$

$$=\frac{2\pi}{\alpha}\Gamma\left(\frac{2}{\alpha}\right)\Gamma\left(1-\frac{2}{\alpha}\right)=\frac{2\pi^2\csc\left(\frac{2\pi}{\alpha}\right)}{\alpha},\quad (45)$$

where the last step follows by Euler's reflection formula. Hence $C(\alpha,1)$ is the same as $C(\alpha)$ derived for the single-antenna case in [9]. From the monotonicity of $C(\alpha,M)$ it follows that $C(\alpha,M) > C(\alpha) \ \forall M > 1$.

Remark 7 (Full SDMA vs. SISO coverage). Keeping all the system parameters the same, the full SDMA coverage is always lower than that of the SISO case. This is consistent with the coverage probability ordering results derived in the previous section.

Remark 8 (Scale invariance in open access HetNets). The full SDMA coverage probability is invariant to the density of the BSs, number of tiers and the transmit powers when the target SIRs and the number of transmit antennas are the same for all the tiers in open access HetNets. The coverage probability in this case is given by $P_c = \frac{\pi}{C(\alpha,M)}\beta^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}}$. This result is again similar to the single-antenna result where the coverage probability reduces to $P_c = \frac{\pi}{C(\alpha)}\beta^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}}$. The scale invariance result does not hold for closed access HetNets.

C. Area Spectral Efficiency

Although the comparison of various system configurations and transmission techniques is quite conclusive in terms of coverage probability and the rate per user, it does not directly account for the fact that some techniques, such as SDMA, serve higher number of users than the others, such as SU-BF, and may result in higher sum data rate. To account for this fact, we consider ASE, which gives the number of bits transmitted per unit area per unit time per unit bandwidth. For a multi-tier setup, it can be formally defined as

$$\eta = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \Psi_k \lambda_k \log_2(1 + \beta_k) \mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{c}}^{(k)}, \tag{46}$$

where $P_c^{(k)}$ is the per tier coverage probability, i.e., coverage probability conditional on the serving BS being in the k^{th} tier. Since the derivations of per tier coverage probabilities are out of the scope of this paper, for analytical comparisons we limit our discussion to the cases where $P_c^{(k)} = P_c$ for all tiers. This is guaranteed for the SISO case when the target SIRs are the same for all tiers and for SDMA when additionally the number of antennas per BS are also the same for all tiers. Recall that the coverage probabilities under these assumptions are scale invariant, as discussed in Remark 8. The ASE under these assumptions can be expressed as:

$$\eta = P_c \log_2(1+\beta) \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \Psi_k \lambda_k. \tag{47}$$

We first compare the ASE of the full SDMA and the SISO cases below. The ASE for full SDMA case is:

$$\eta_M = M \frac{\pi}{C(\alpha, M)} \beta^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}} \log_2(1+\beta) \sum_{k \in K} \lambda_k, \quad (48)$$

and for the single-antenna case is:

$$\eta_S = \frac{\pi}{C(\alpha)} \beta^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}} \log_2(1+\beta) \sum_{k \in K} \lambda_k.$$
 (49)

The ratio of the ASEs can be expressed as:

$$\frac{\eta_M}{\eta_S} = \frac{MC(\alpha)}{C(\alpha, M)}.$$
 (50)

Using the fact that

$$\lim_{M \to \infty} \frac{C(\alpha, M)}{M^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}} = \pi \Gamma(1 - 2/\alpha), \tag{51}$$

the ratio of the ASEs can be approximated as:

$$\frac{\eta_M}{\eta_S} \approx \frac{M^{1-\frac{2}{\alpha}}C(\alpha)}{\pi\Gamma(1-2/\alpha)}$$
 (52)

$$=\Gamma\left(1+\frac{2}{\alpha}\right)M^{1-\frac{2}{\alpha}},\tag{53}$$

which shows that the ratio grows with the number of antennas when $\alpha>2$. In the next section we will validate this observation and show that the ASE in case of full SDMA case is always higher than the SISO case. We will also show that the approximation is surprisingly tight even for small values of M.

Another relevant comparison is that of full SDMA and SISO transmissions when both the systems are serving the same density of users. To facilitate this comparison, the densities of BSs for SDMA case will be lower than the SISO case by a factor of M. This comparison will provide insights into whether it beneficial in terms of ASE to deploy λ BSs per unit area with M antennas or $M\lambda$ single-antenna BSs per unit area. In that case, the ratio of the ASEs can be approximated as:

$$\frac{\eta_M}{\eta'_S} \approx \Gamma \left(1 + \frac{2}{\alpha} \right) M^{-\frac{2}{\alpha}},$$
 (54)

which shows that the ratio decreases sublinearly with the number of antennas when $\alpha>2$. We will validate this observation in the next section and show that the ASE in case of SISO is higher than the full SDMA case.

So far, we have focused only on the comparison between full SDMA and SISO cases, mainly because the coverage probability expressions for these cases are known in closed form. Since the coverage probability upper bound for SU-BF cannot be reduced to closed form and moreover the tightness of the bound is questionable, we cannot perform similar comparisons with SU-BF unless we derive a simple coverage probability expression, which is out of the scope of this paper. Having said that, it is possible to compare the three cases in the very low target SIR regime, where the coverage probability approaches 1. Therefore, the ASE of SISO and SU-BF cases should be similar because they serve the same number of users and of SDMA case should be higher than the both when the densities of BSs are the same for all the cases. We will revisit this case along with the moderate and high target SIR regimes in the next section.

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

Since there is a slight difference in the simulation of the proposed multi-antenna model and the ones proposed in the literature for the single-antenna HetNets, e.g., [9], we will briefly summarize the simulation procedure before explaining the results. Choose a sufficiently large window and simulate

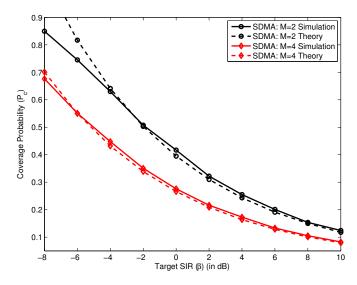


Fig. 3. Coverage probability of a two tier HetNet when both the tiers perform full SDMA ($K=2, P=[1,.01], M_1=M_2=M, \lambda_2=2\lambda_1, \beta_1=\beta_2, \alpha=3.8$).

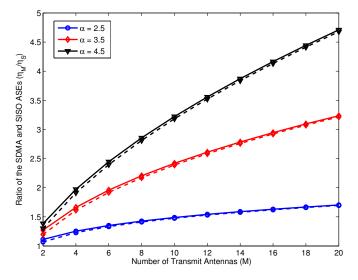


Fig. 4. The ratio of the full SDMA and the SISO ASEs given by (50). The dotted plots correspond to the approximation of the ratio given by (52).

the locations of different classes of BSs as realizations of independent PPPs of given densities. Associate two independent marks h_x and g_x with each BS. Assuming the typical user lies at the origin, calculate the desired signal strength from each BS using the sequence of marks $\{h_{kx}\}$ and the interference power using the sequence $\{g_{kx}\}$. Calculate the received SIR from each BS. The user is now said to be in coverage if the received SIR from at least one of the BSs belonging to the permissible tiers is more than the corresponding target. Repeating this procedure sufficient number of times, we have an estimate of the coverage probability. For conciseness, we focus only on the open access case in this section.

Using this procedure, we now evaluate the coverage probability of a two tier HetNet in full SDMA case and compare the results with the upper bound derived in Corollary 6 in Fig. 3. As stated in Remark 5, the bound is tight down to very low

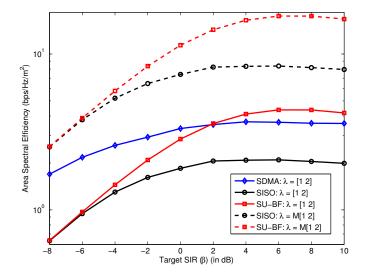


Fig. 5. Comparison of the ASE in a two tier HetNet $(K=2,P=[1,.01],\lambda_2=2\lambda_1,\beta_1=\beta_2,\alpha=3.8)$. The number of antennas in case of multi-antenna tiers is M=4. Full SDMA corresponds to $\Psi=M$.

target SIRs. Even for M=2, the bound is tight down to about $-4~{\rm dB.}$ A slight gap at moderate to high target SIRs is due to the edge effects in simulation, also observed earlier in [9]. This validates our assumption of considering the upper bound as an approximation of the coverage probability in case of full SDMA in the previous section.

We next plot the ratio of the ASEs of the full SDMA and SISO cases given by (50) in Fig. 4. As stated in the previous section, the ASE of full SDMA case is always higher and the gap increases further at higher path loss exponents or when the number of transmit antennas increases. We also note that the approximation given by (52) is extremely tight even when the number of antennas is small.

We now additionally consider SU-BF and compare ASE for the three transmission techniques in a 2-tier HetNet in Fig. 5. Both the tiers are assumed to follow the same transmission technique and the ASE result for SU-BF is computed numerically by computing the per tier coverage probability. For comparison, we consider two cases, one in which the density of the BSs in the three setups remain the same, and the other in which the densities are adjusted such that the density of users served in the three cases is the same. In the first case, SU-BF, which always outperforms SISO, even outperforms full SDMA in the high target SIR regime despite serving smaller number of users. The trends in the low target SIR regime are consistent with arguments presented in the previous section. In the second case, where the density of the users is the same in all the cases, the ordering of the three transmission techniques in terms of ASE is the same as that of coverage and rate per user.

Before concluding this section, we study the effect of adding a second tier to the network in terms of coverage probability in Fig. 6, where both the first and the second tier can be one of the three possible types: i) SISO, ii) full SDMA, iii) SU-BF. This result shows that the case where both the tiers perform SU-BF results in the highest coverage, whereas the case where both

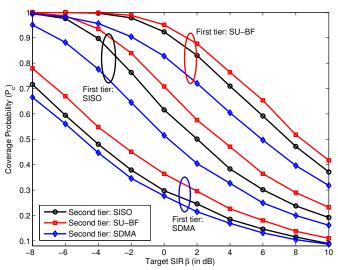


Fig. 6. Comparison of the coverage probability in a two tier HetNet for various combinations of multi-antenna techniques $(K=2,P=[1,.01],\lambda_2=2\lambda_1,\beta_1=\beta_2,\alpha=3.8)$. The number of antennas in case of multi-antenna tiers is M=4.

the tiers perform full SDMA leads to the lowest coverage. This is because SU-BF case has an additional beamforming gain; in addition to the proximity gain enjoyed by the SISO case. This result is consistent with the coverage ordering results derived in this paper.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have proposed a new tractable downlink model for multi-antenna HetNets. For any given BS distribution, we derived ordering results for coverage probability and per user rate to compare different transmission techniques, such as SDMA, SU-BF and baseline single antenna transmission. In addition to significantly generalizing the state of the art PPP based random spatial models for cellular networks, this approach circumvents the need for deriving explicit expressions for coverage and rate, which may not reduce to simple closed forms in all the cases. Our analysis demonstrates that for a given total number of transmit antennas, it is preferable to spread them across many single-antenna BSs vs. fewer multi-antenna BSs, both in terms of coverage and rate per user. We also show that SU-BF provides higher coverage and rate per user than both SISO and SDMA due to an additional beamforming gain. To account for the fact that certain transmission techniques, such as SDMA, serve more users and may provide higher sum-rate, we derive an upper bound on the coverage probability assuming an independent PPP model for BS locations and use it to compare different transmission techniques in terms of ASE.

Future work could consider HetNets with multi-antenna receivers and investigate potential gains by performing interference cancelation and/or receive combining. Further extensions to this work could include the effect of imperfect CSI at the transmitters and opportunistic scheduling on the coverage probability and spatial reuse. Another important extension of the modeling tools developed in this paper is to the uplink of cellular networks [35].

APPENDIX A SIGNALING PRELIMINARIES

The received signal y_k from k^{th} tier BS at a typical user located at the origin is given by

$$y_k = \sqrt{P_k} \|x_k\|^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \mathbf{v}_{kx_k}^* \mathbf{z}_k + \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \sum_{y \in \Phi_j \setminus x_k} \sqrt{P_j} \|y\|^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \mathbf{u}_{jy}^* \mathbf{z}_j,$$
(55)

where P_k is the per user transmit power of k^{th} tier BS, and $\mathbf{z}_k \in \mathbb{C}^{M_k \times 1}$ is the normalized transmit signal vector. The channel vector from k^{th} tier BS to a typical user located at origin is denoted by $\mathbf{v}_{kx} \in \mathbb{C}^{M_k \times 1}$ and for the interfering link from a j^{th} tier BS located at $y \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is denoted by $\mathbf{u}_{jy} \in \mathbb{C}^{M_j \times 1}$. The vectors \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u} are assumed to have i.i.d. $\mathcal{CN}(0,1)$ entries, independent across BSs and of the user distances.

This paper assumes linear precoding, in which the k^{th} tier BS multiplies the data symbol $s_{k,i}$ destined for the i^{th} user, for $1 \leq i \leq \Psi_k$, by $\mathbf{w}_{k,i}$ so that the transmitted

signal is a linear function, i.e. $\mathbf{z}_k = \sum_{i=1}^{x_k} \mathbf{w}_{k,i} s_{k,i}$. When zero-

forcing beamforming with perfect \overrightarrow{CSI} is employed to serve Ψ_k , Ψ_j users in tier k, j respectively, the columns of the precoding matrix $\mathbf{W}_k = [\mathbf{w}_{k,i}]_{1 \leq i \leq \Psi_k} \in \mathbb{C}^{M_k \times \Psi_k}$ equal the normalized columns of $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}_k^* (\tilde{\mathbf{V}}_k \tilde{\mathbf{V}}_k^*)^{-1} \in \mathbb{C}^{M_k \times \Psi_k}$, for $\tilde{\mathbf{V}} = [\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_1, \ldots, \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_k \ldots \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{\Psi_k}]^* \in \mathbb{C}^{\Psi_k \times M_k}$ being the concatenated matrix of channel directions, where the direction of each vector channel is represented as $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_k \triangleq \frac{\mathbf{v}_k}{\|\mathbf{v}_k\|}$. The desired channel power is given by $h_{kx} = |\mathbf{v}_{kx}^* \mathbf{w}_{k,k}|^2 = |\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{kx}^* \mathbf{w}_{k,k}|^2 \cdot ||\mathbf{v}_{kx}||^2$ which equals the product of two independent rv's which are distributed as Beta $(M_k - \Psi_k + 1, \Psi_k - 1)$ and $\Gamma(M_k, 1)$, respectively. Therefore, the channel power is $h_{kx} \sim \Gamma(\Delta_k, 1)$ with $\Delta_k = M_k - \Psi_k + 1$. For the distribution of the interfering marks, we assumed that the precoding matrices have unitnorm columns and that W_j is calculated independently of \mathbf{u}_{jy} . Therefore, $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{jy}$ and \mathbf{w}_{j} are independent isotropic unitnorm random vectors, and $\left|\tilde{\mathbf{u}}_{iu}^*\mathbf{w}_j\right|^2$ is a linear combination of Ψ_j complex normal random variables, i.e. exponentially distributed. As a result, we have that $g_{jy} \sim \Gamma(\Psi_j, 1)$, since it is the sum of Ψ_i i.i.d. exponential random variables.

The case $\Delta_k=1$ and $\Psi_j=M_j$ is referred to as full SDMA. The case that each BS only serves one user, i.e. $\Psi_k=1$, using the beamforming vector $\mathbf{w}_{kx}=\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{kx}$ corresponds to SU-BF or MISO eigen-beamforming. In that case, the channel power is given by $h_{kx}\sim\Gamma(\Delta_k,1)$ with $\Delta_k=M_k$ and the interference marks as $g_{jy}\sim\Gamma(\Psi_j,1)$ with $\Psi_j=1,\ \forall j\in\mathcal{K}$, since the beamforming vectors \mathbf{w}_{jy} used by the j^{th} tier interfering BS are calculated based on \mathbf{v}_j , i.e. independently of \mathbf{u}_{jy} .

APPENDIX B PROOF OF LEMMA 5

The Laplace transform of interference $\mathcal{L}_I(s) = \mathbb{E}_{I_{x_k}}\left[e^{-sI}\right]$ can be derived as follows:

$$\mathbb{E}_{I}\left[e^{-sI}\right] = \mathbb{E}_{I}\left[e^{-s\sum_{j\in\mathcal{K}}\sum_{y\in\Phi_{j}}P_{j}g_{jy}\|y\|^{-\alpha}}\right]$$
 (56)

$$\stackrel{(a)}{=} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \mathbb{E} \left[\prod_{y \in \Phi_j} e^{-sP_j g_{jy} \|y\|^{-\alpha}} \right]$$
 (57)

$$\stackrel{(b)}{=} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \mathbb{E}_{\Phi_j} \left[\prod_{y \in \Phi_j} \mathcal{L}_{g_{jy}} \left(s P_j \|y\|^{-\alpha} \right) \right]$$
 (58)

$$\stackrel{(c)}{=} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \exp\left(-\lambda_j \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left(1 - \mathcal{L}_{g_{jy}}\left(sP_j \|y\|^{-\alpha}\right)\right) dy\right) \tag{59}$$

$$\stackrel{(d)}{=} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \exp\left(-\lambda_j \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{(1 + sP_j ||y||^{-\alpha})^{\Psi_j}}\right) dy\right)$$
(60)

$$= \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \exp\left(-\lambda_j \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{(1 + sP_j ||y||^{-\alpha})^{\Psi_j} - 1}{(1 + sP_j ||y||^{-\alpha})^{\Psi_j}} dy\right)$$
(61)

$$\stackrel{(e)}{=} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \exp\left(-\lambda_j \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{\Psi_j} {\binom{\Psi_j}{m}} (sP_j ||y||^{-\alpha})^m}{(1 + sP_j ||y||^{-\alpha})^{\Psi_j}} \mathrm{d}y\right) \tag{62}$$

$$= \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \exp \left(-\lambda_j \sum_{m=1}^{\Psi_j} {\Psi_j \choose m} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \frac{(s_{x_k} P_j \|y\|^{-\alpha})^m}{(1 + s_{x_k} P_j \|y\|^{-\alpha})^{\Psi_j}} \mathrm{d}y \right)$$
(63)

$$\stackrel{(f)}{=} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{K}} e^{-2\pi\lambda_j (s_{x_k} P_j)^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \sum_{m=1}^{\Psi_j} {\Psi_j \choose m} \int_0^\infty \frac{r^{-\alpha m}}{(1+r^{-\alpha})^{\Psi_j}} r \mathrm{d}r}$$
 (64)

$$\stackrel{(g)}{=} \exp\left(-s_{x_k}^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{K}} \lambda_j P_j^{\frac{2}{\alpha}} C(\alpha, \Psi_j)\right),\tag{65}$$

where (a) follows from the independence of the tiers, (b) follows from the fact that channel powers are independent of the BS locations, (c) follows from PGFL of PPP [34], (d) follows from the Laplace transform of the $g_{jy} \sim \Gamma(\Psi_j,1)$, (e) follows from Binomial theorem, and (f) follows from converting to Cartesian to polar coordinates, and (g) follows by substituting $(1+r^{-\alpha})^{-1} \to t$ to convert the integral into Euler's Beta function $B(x,y) = \int_0^1 t^{x-1} (1-t)^{y-1} \mathrm{d}t$.

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